



Labor & Economic Briefing

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Here is a summary of headlining accomplishments from the last month:

Attracting Jobs, People & Opportunity with Cool Cities

Governor Granholm Announces 2005 Cool Cities Designees: Governor Jennifer M. Granholm announced on June 27th that 29 projects have been given Cool Cities Neighborhood designations. The Cool Cities Program is part of the Governor's economic plan that is designed to help revitalize Michigan's cities by retaining and attracting the jobs and people critical to the emerging economies of the 21st century. The program is funded by redirecting existing resources in state government. Thirteen projects have received the Cool Cities "Neighborhoods in Progress" designation, which gives them priority access to existing state grant funds, loans, tax credits, or services that can help create vibrant, mixed-use neighborhoods. They also will receive a catalyst grant of \$100,000 each. The 13 projects receiving the Cool Cities Neighborhoods in Progress are located in **Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Detroit (4 projects), East Lansing, Grand Rapids (2 projects), Holland, Kalamazoo, Lansing, and Traverse City**. For project details, visit <http://www.coolcities.com>.

"Building vibrant, energetic cities that attract jobs, people and opportunity to our state is a key component of our economic vision for Michigan," Granholm said. "The first year of Cool Cities exceeded our expectations, so I am pleased to announce that the program has been expanded and incorporates 29 projects across the state. All of these programs announced will strengthen our neighborhoods and downtowns and attract jobs and people to our state."

Granholm added that the guiding principles of the Cool Cities Initiative are based on best practices used in neighborhoods of the most vibrant communities in the United States and around the world.

New to the Cool Cities Initiative this year are 16 additional projects that will receive the Cool Cities Neighborhood designation and other state resources as part of the expanded Cool Cities Grants & Planning Programs. Those 16 additional projects were selected for the following new categories: Cool Cities Michigan Main Street, Cool Cities Blueprints for Michigan's Downtowns, and Cool Cities Blueprints for Michigan's Neighborhoods.

Like the Neighborhoods in Progress, these designees will receive "Cool Cities Neighborhood" designation, special consideration for some MEDC and/or MSHDA programs and participation in a State Resource Fair. The programs and recipients are:

- **2005 Cool Cities Michigan Main Street: Ishpeming, Grand Haven, Howell, and Midland.** These projects will receive more than \$200,000 in technical assistance and training as part of a long-term management approach to revitalizing and maintaining a successful downtown through organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring.
- **2005 Cool Cities Blueprints for Michigan's Downtowns: Big Rapids, Vassar, Utica, Romeo, East Tawas, Grass Lake, Iron River, Whitehall, and Saginaw.** Based on a market driven approach, HyettPalma, MEDC and MSHDA staff team up to provide a very public process, and action-oriented strategy to revitalize the downtown in a 3 – 5 year period including a market study for the downtown. Designees receive a 50/50 match and MSHDA/MEDC pay for half the consultant fee.
- **2005 Cool Cities Blueprints for Michigan's Neighborhoods: Vassar, Alpena, and Manistee.** A consultant works with the local unit of government to identify a vision and priorities for a target neighborhood adjacent to the downtown or traditional commercial district; then provides a specific neighborhood strategy for revitalization including a market plan and course of action. Local unit pays for consultant. Cities receive Community Development Block Grand funds.



**Governor
Jennifer M.
Granholm**



Above, representatives for each of Detroit's 4 Neighborhoods in Progress recipients are shown above with Director David C. Hollister at the Detroit announcement on June 27th.

Creating & Retaining Michigan Jobs

Governor Announces 10 Development Projects, 5,006 Jobs for Michigan Workers: Nine company expansions and a brownfield redevelopment project will **create and retain up to 5,006 new jobs** and **attract more than \$268 million in private investment to Michigan**. Incentives from the MEDC were instrumental in convincing the following companies to expand in Michigan instead of locations outside the state:

- **ALD Thermal Treatment Inc.**, a subsidiary of German-owned ALD Vacuum Technologies, plans to invest \$20 million to expand in Port Huron instead of competing sites in Ohio and Canada. The project is expected to create 132 new jobs, including 95 directly by the company. An SBT credit valued at \$915,000 over the next seven years helped convince the company to opt for Michigan. The city of Port Huron has also proposed tax abatements valued at about \$1.6 million. ALD specializes in advanced vacuum heating services used in the specialized manufacturing of precision auto parts.
- **American Axle & Manufacturing** will invest a total of \$80 million in two of its Michigan facilities - \$73 million in Detroit and \$7 million in Three Rivers - to accommodate the manufacture of General Motors' next generation of full size pickups and sport utility vehicles (SUV). The project will save a total of 1,568 Michigan jobs, including 458 in Detroit and 198 in Three Rivers directly by the company. An SBT credit valued at more than \$7.7 million over eight years as well as an Economic Development Job Training grant of up to \$458,000 helped persuade the company to expand in Michigan. The city of Detroit is expected to consider a tax abatement valued at \$8.3 million over 12 years in support of the Detroit location. The city of Three Rivers has also offered a 12-year tax abatement valued at \$364,000.
- **Commonwealth Associates Inc.**, an engineering firm that designs power delivery systems including alternative energy integration systems, plans to invest \$2.8 million to expand its operations in Jackson and create 127 jobs, including 50 new, highly-skilled jobs directly by the company over five years. An incentive package including an SBT credit valued at approximately \$947,000 and a local property tax abatement of \$223,700 approved by Blackman Township helped convince the company to invest in Michigan instead of a competing site in Atlanta.
- **Compact Power Inc.**, plans to invest \$18.1 million to locate a new research and development center in Troy instead of expanding an existing facility in Colorado. A subsidiary of LG Chem., the largest chemical company in South Korea, Compact Power develops lithium polymer battery packs for electric, hybrid fuel cell vehicles and military and aerospace applications. The project is expected to create 298 new jobs, including 168 directly by the company. An SBT credit valued at more than \$3.8 million over the next 10 years helped convince the company to expand in Michigan. To further support the project, the city of Troy will provide \$50,000 for necessary road improvements and is willing to support NextEnergy personal property tax exemptions worth up to \$820,500.
- **Duncan Aviation** will invest \$19.5 million to expand its aircraft service facility in Battle Creek. The project is expected to create 726 jobs, including 380 directly by the company. An SBT credit valued at approximately \$2.2 million as well as an Economic Development Job Training grant of up to \$175,000 motivated Duncan to choose Michigan over its headquarters location in Nebraska.
- **J & L America Inc.**, plans to invest \$11.8 million to centralize and expand its headquarters and business operations in Southfield instead of competing locations out of state. The project is expected to create 454 new jobs, including 300 directly by the company. An SBT credit valued at more than \$3.4 million over the next eight years helped make the case for staying in Michigan. The city of Southfield approved a tax abatement valued at more than \$178,000. J&L is a wholly owned subsidiary of Kennametal Inc., a leading global supplier of tooling, engineered components and advanced materials consumed in production processes. Combined, they have 549 employees in Michigan.
- **Mexicantown Commercial Properties** will develop vacant, partially tax-reverted property located in the Mexicantown community in southeast Detroit into a two-building complex. It will incorporate one of the state's Welcome Centers, retail space, a business incubator and a public plaza. Located about 500 feet from the U.S.-Canadian border, the Mexicantown International Welcome Center will have a projected 1.8 million visitors a year upon completion. State and local tax capture valued at more than \$1.3 million will help prepare the property for development. The project is expected to create 63 new jobs.
- **Stryker Corporation**, one of the world's largest medical products and services companies, will invest approximately \$20.4 million to build a new headquarters in Kalamazoo. The project will create 165 new jobs, including 100 directly by the company. An SBT credit valued at approximately \$5.8 million helped the company decide to expand in Michigan instead of a competing location in New Jersey. Kalamazoo is considering a local abatement valued at \$471,600.
- **United Solar Ovonic LLC**, the world leader in thin-film photovoltaics for solar energy conversion, plans to invest more than \$80.2 million to locate a new production facility in Auburn Hills. Tax credits valued at more than \$6.1 million over 20 years and a \$100,000 Economic Development Job Training Grant helped the company decide to locate the facility in Michigan over a competing site in Ohio. To further support the project, the city of Auburn Hills has proposed a tax abatement valued at \$109,100 and is willing to support NextEnergy personal property tax exemptions that could be worth an estimated \$6.9 million over the next eight years. The facility is expected to create 625 new jobs, including 230 directly by the company. A wholly owned subsidiary of Energy Conversion Devices (ECD Ovonic) (NASDAQ:ENER), United Solar currently employs nearly 200 employees in Troy and Auburn Hills.
- **Universal Am-Can Ltd.**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Universal Truckload Services Inc., plans to invest more than \$16 million to consolidate its headquarters and administrative operations in Warren over a competing site in Tampa, Florida. The project is expected to create 848 new jobs, including 594 directly by the company. An SBT credit valued at more than \$5.6 million over the next 10 years convinced the company to grow in Michigan. The city of Warren has proposed a tax abatement valued at approximately \$2 million over the next 12 years.

Governor Announces Jobs for Michigan Web site: A Jobs for Michigan Fund Web site (<http://www.jobsformichigan.com>) was launched on June 3 to provide information about Governor Granholm's bold initiative to diversify Michigan's economy and create thousands of new jobs for workers. The site includes a Frequently Asked Questions document, a "What Others Are Saying" list of comments from Michigan leaders, and the Jobs for Michigan Fund white paper "Building the Future for All."

Sunny Fresh Foods Breaks Ground for \$1.4 Million Lake Odessa Expansion: Officials from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation joined company and community leaders on June 2 to celebrate the groundbreaking for an expansion of Sunny Fresh Foods in the village of Lake Odessa. A \$1.1 million federal Community Development Block Grant approved by the MEDC will be used for water and sewer upgrades to support the project, and the village will provide an additional \$200,000 for needed improvements. The expansion is expected to create 57 new jobs. Sunny Fresh, a Cargill Foods company, is the nation's leading supplier of egg products for restaurants and other food service companies.

New Cobasys HQ Dedicated in Orion: Governor Granholm joined company and local government officials on May 18 to celebrate the dedication of the new Cobasys headquarters and technical center in Orion. An incentive package offered by the MEDC helped convince the alternative energy company to invest an estimated \$1.5 million in consolidation and expansion of its operations in Michigan over a competing site in Ohio. The project is expected to create 150 new jobs over the next five years. According to Cobasys President and CEO Thomas Neslage, the company has doubled its Michigan based employment since 2003 and expects to have up to 200 Michigan-based employees by the end of 2005. The MEDC approved a Single Business Tax (SBT) credit valued at approximately \$3.9 million to win the project. Orion Township, in Oakland County, also approved a 50 percent abatement of the company's new personal property taxes valued at \$92,000 for 12 years. Cobasys develops and manufactures advanced nickel metal hydride battery solutions for the transportation and stationary power industries, including electric/hybrid-electric vehicles, heavy-duty vehicles, telecommunications, uninterrupted power supply and distributed generation applications. Cobasys is a joint venture between ChevronTexaco Technology Ventures, an operating unit of ChevronTexaco Corporation and Energy Conversion Devices Inc.

Michigan Businesses Honored at 8th Annual Success Celebration: Top Michigan businesses, economic development groups, educators and community leaders were honored on May 17 for innovation and achievement at the 8th annual Business Success Celebration, held in the Capitol rotunda in Lansing. The event was sponsored by the Michigan Economic Development Foundation, and Governor Granholm presented the awards. Many of the companies recognized have benefited from assistance from the MEDC. Key tax incentives encouraged General Motors, Haworth, Quicken Loans and Mobius Microsystems to choose Michigan over other states for their job-creating expansions. A Michigan Life Sciences Corridor award enabled Asterand to develop new technology that is helping the world's research scientists unlock the genetic basis of cancer and other major diseases. The 11 award categories and honorees were:

- Exporter of the Year: Enstrom Helicopter Corporation, Menominee
- Largest Job Creation by a Manufacturing Company: Haworth Inc., Holland
- Largest Job Creation by a Non-Manufacturing Company: Quicken Loans, Livonia
- Largest Retention Project: General Motors Corporation, Flint
- Largest Job Creation by a High-Technology Company: Mobius Microsystems, Detroit
- Largest Amount of Venture Capital Equity Financing: Altair Engineering Inc., Detroit
- Technology Company of the Year: Asterand Inc., Detroit
- Technology Infrastructure Partner: Kalamazoo SmartZone, Kalamazoo
- SmartZone Company: Thermoanalytics Inc., Calumet
- Entrepreneurship: Edward Lowe Foundation, Cassopolis
- Economic Development Journalism: WWJ Newsradio 950, Detroit

Fostering Vibrant Michigan Cities and Urban Centers

Governor Launches New Urban Worker Training Initiative in Benton Harbor: Governor Granholm also on June 13 announced the launch of a new Urban Training Program in Benton Harbor with the goal of creating private investment and good-paying jobs for unskilled workers in Benton Harbor. The MEDC approved funding for Benton Charter Township to provide on-the-job training for new hires of ACE Companies LLC, a recycling company. ACE will invest \$1.2 million to expand its operations and hire 26 new, unskilled residents of Benton Harbor. The township will use \$260,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funding to reimburse the company for the cost of up to six months of training for the 26 new workers. The program requires the company to hire unskilled residents of Benton Harbor and Benton Charter Township. The new program may be made available to qualified urban communities statewide in coming months. In addition to the support Ace has received from the state of Michigan, it has also received local assistance from Cornerstone Alliance, the area's economic development organization. The Renaissance Development Fund, the financing affiliate of Cornerstone Alliance, is providing a \$90,000 loan to Ace Metals for business operations. A portion of a USDA Rural Enterprise Grant will help fund the loan. The Benton Harbor workforce will also benefit from another training program recently launched by Governor Granholm. The Skilled Trades Enhancement program will provide training in construction-related skills to prepare workers for apprenticeships and other entry-level positions. The Berrien-Cass-Van Buren Michigan Works! Agency will administer four six-week training sessions over the next year. For more information contact the agency at <http://www.miworks.org>.

MEDC & MSHDA Backs Rehab of Three Condemned Buildings in Grand Rapids' Heartside: Three vacant, functionally obsolete buildings in the Grand Rapids Heartside Historic District will be redeveloped into commercial space and new, affordable housing. The project, announced by the Governor on May 26, is assisted by a brownfield Single Business Tax credit from the MEDC valued at \$325,454 and assistance from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. It is expected to **generate more than \$3.2 million in private investment** and **create six new jobs**. Heartside received a state Cool Cities catalyst grant in 2004. Kelsey Limited Dividend Housing Association Limited Partnership will transform three buildings into 12 large, live-work loft apartments and 2,450 square feet of commercial space that will target arts-related tenants and businesses. The apartments will be available for \$591 per month.

Detroit, Dexter, Flint and Grand Rapids Redevelopments Announced: Unusable properties in four Michigan downtowns are scheduled for redevelopment thanks to Single Business Tax credits from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The projects are expected to **generate a total of \$17 million private investment** and **create more than 345 jobs**. The projects:

- **SRM Associates LLC** will use a tax credit valued at \$200,000 to demolish five blighted and vacant buildings on East Jefferson in Detroit to make way for the new Bob Maxey Ford Dealership. The 3,000-square-foot facility will include a showroom, offices and repair shop. The Michigan Department of Transportation and the city will provide streetscape improvements to make the area more pedestrian-friendly. SRM Associates will **invest \$2 million** in the project, which is expected to **create more than 60 new jobs**. Detroit is a proud and active participant in the Michigan Cool Cities initiative.
- **Monument Park Investments, LLC** will use a tax credit valued at \$210,000 to clean up a contaminated site in downtown Dexter and construct the new Monument Park Building. The three-story, mixed-use facility will be designed to complement the existing downtown structures and provide retail, office and residential space. The developer will **invest \$2.1 million** in the project, which is expected to **create more than 50 new jobs**.
- Three blighted, obsolete and contaminated buildings in downtown Flint will be revitalized and converted into a major residential, commercial and entertainment complex with the assistance of a brownfield SBT from the MEDC. The project is the result of a 2004 state Cool Cities catalyst grant. Developer **500 Block LLC, in partnership with Rowe Inc. and Downtown 1 LLC**, will use a \$957,211 brownfield SBT credit with its own **investment of \$9.5 million** to transform the vacant, historic buildings located at 532, 538 and 542 South Saginaw Street into a four-story, 60,000-square-foot, mixed-use development. In addition to providing new space for restaurants, a sports bar, night club and eight 1,200-square-foot loft apartments, the facility will house the corporate headquarters for Rowe Inc., an engineering firm currently located on Taylor Drive. The project will bring 100 Rowe employees to work at the downtown headquarters and **create approximately 100 new jobs**.
- A vacant and functionally obsolete building in the Grand Rapids Heartside historic district will be redeveloped into a mixed-use development. The project, expected to generate more than **\$3.4 million in private investment** and **create up to 35 new jobs**, is being assisted by a brownfield SBT credit from the MEDC. The developer, **101 S. Division, LLC**, will use the \$345,000 brownfield SBT credit to transform the former three-story downtown hotel and rooming house into a 9,702-square-foot home for retail, commercial and restaurant space as well as 20 new apartments. This is the fourth brownfield redevelopment project announced for Heartside, a proud and active participant in the Michigan Cool Cities initiative. Combined, the projects will spur **more than \$16.2 million in private investment** and **create approximately 60 new jobs**.

Governor Announces Ludington, Muskegon and Norton Shores Redevelopments: Governor Granholm announced that contaminated properties in three West Michigan communities will be transformed into new housing and retail developments, **creating and retaining up to 70 jobs**. Assisted with more than \$1 million in brownfield Single Business Tax credits from the MEDC, the following projects are expected to **generate more than \$10.3 million in private investment**:

- Ludington Harbor Terrace LLC will use an SBT credit valued at \$400,000 to redevelop an old and underutilized industrial building overlooking the lakefront in downtown Ludington into new housing and commercial space. The 83,000-square-foot development will house approximately 34 condominium units ranging from \$220,000 to \$380,000, retail/office space and parking. The developer plans to **invest \$4 million** in the project, which is expected to **create 15 jobs** and increase residential growth in the city's downtown. The project will also help keep a manufacturer in the Ludington area. Change Parts Inc., the owner of the current building, will use the proceeds from the sale to construct a new manufacturing facility in the Pere Marquette Industrial Park, rather than consolidating operations at its second facility in Indiana.
- Newacre LLC will utilize an SBT credit valued at \$385,625 to transform the former Teledyne-Continental Motors site on the corner of Terrace Street and Lakeshore Drive in Muskegon into a new, 15,800-square-foot professional office building. The site is part of the Edison Landing development in the Muskegon SmartZone and is a key project in redeveloping the Muskegon Lake shoreline. Newacre will **invest \$3.8 million** in the project, which is expected to **create 10 new jobs**.
- Muskegon Commerce Bank will use a SBT credit valued at \$245,000 to clean up a contaminated site and make way for the construction of a new bank located at 257 Seminole Drive in Norton Shores. The property, a former landfill, currently houses the existing bank and a vacant, deteriorating retail building. The new bank will be more than triple the size of the current building and connect with the Eastowne development announced last December. The development will include a restaurant, retail and office space and unique live/work, residential/professional office units to accommodate medical professionals. The new bank will be the first phase of the multi-phase project. Once it is complete, the old bank will be demolished and the property redeveloped. Muskegon Commerce will **invest more than \$2.4 million** in the project, which is expected to **create and retain 45 jobs**.

Making Michigan a Technology Leader

Governor Welcomes International Dendrimer Symposium, Hails CMU Lab Expansion: The 4th International Dendrimer Symposium held in May in Mount Pleasant marked the first time the event was in the Western Hemisphere; previous conferences were held in Frankfurt, Tokyo and Berlin. The meeting attracted more than 80 internationally recognized speakers from 15 countries and nearly 100 research posters. Dendrimers are a class of polymer molecules on the scale of one-billionth of a meter. They were discovered nearly 20 years ago at Dow Chemical Co. in Midland by Dr. Donald Tomalia, a native of Flint. His company, Dendritic NanoTechnologies (DNT), was founded in 2001 and is housed at CMU's Dendrimer Center in the Mount Pleasant SmartZone. The Governor hailed construction of the 17,000-square-foot addition to CMU's Center for Applied Research and Technology building as a major development for the growth of small tech in Michigan. The project is being funded by a grant of \$250,000 from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, \$2.15 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration and matching funds from CMU. Planned for completion in spring 2006, the new facility will feature state-of-the-art wet chemistry and bio-level laboratories. DNT and Canadian-based MultiGEN Diagnostics will be the first tenants.

Ann Arbor Unites for Economic Development: University, business, entrepreneurial, government and community leaders in the greater Ann Arbor (Washtenaw County) area have banded together to form SPARK, an economic development and marketing organization. The recently incorporated nonprofit, formed by University of Michigan, Washtenaw County, the city of Ann Arbor, Eastern Michigan University, Pfizer Inc. and local community and business leaders, will share space with the Ann Arbor IT Zone. It aims to build the region's tech community by retaining workers, growing new companies and transferring university technology to the marketplace. The SPARK Web site can be viewed at <http://www.annarborspark.org>.

Detroit Chamber, Automation Alley Follow Suit: The Detroit Regional Chamber and Automation Alley, Oakland County's regional technology-development initiative, have formed a partnership to promote economic development and attract technology businesses to the region. The partnership includes the chamber's existing Detroit Regional Economic Partnership. The new collaboration plans to sponsor the September 8 Michigan Technology Conference in Dearborn.

Detroit Region #3 in Broadband: The Detroit region is the third-ranked broadband market in the United States, according to a recent Nielsen/NetRatings report. The metro area beat out New York, Boston and the San Francisco Bay area with a 67% broadband penetration rate providing high-speed Internet access to residents, schools and businesses throughout the city.

Road Show Takes MEDC Trade Office Directors to Five Michigan Cities: The MEDC's Export Services Unit just completed a two-week "road show" introducing export-ready firms to the MEDC's overseas trade office directors from China and Mexico. The directors provided free consultation to companies wishing to access the China and Mexico export markets and offered information about export services available to Michigan companies. In addition, MEDC staff provided information on JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) services for Michigan companies wishing to sell to the Japanese market. Presentations and one-on-one meetings were hosted in Grand Rapids, Marquette, Saginaw, Traverse City and Kalamazoo by many of our partners, including the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Centers and Southwest Michigan First.

GM to Build New Test Facility at Milford Proving Grounds: General Motors announced on June 9 that it will build a new rollover testing facility at its Milford proving grounds, part of \$33 million in improvements to its crash test programs. It is expected to be operational by late 2006. The move will help the world's largest automaker develop rollover-sensing systems for air bags and occupant protection systems.

Technology Tri-Corridor Awards \$27 Million for Life Sciences Research and Commercialization: Governor Granholm announced on June 15 that 24 award winners will share \$27.3 million in Technology Tri-Corridor funding to spur the growth of Michigan's life sciences industry. Winners of the competitive, peer-reviewed process include researchers at the state's public universities and entrepreneurs working to commercialize technology-based products. Two of this year's award recipients were approved for more than \$2.5 million in funding each. An award of more than \$2.7 million will lead to the development of a **Center of Excellence for Simulation Research in Battle Creek**. The new center, associated with Western Michigan University, will focus on medical simulation based on a model of new science used successfully in the airline industry. New hardware and software for the medical simulation industry are expected to be created based on research conducted at the center. **Neural Intervention Technologies of Ann Arbor** was approved for \$2.5 million in funding to develop ALGEL, a technology for the treatment of aneurysms. The funding will enable the company to advance from the current pre-clinical stage to clinical treatment of 10 to 20 patients to determine whether the product is safe and effective. A private research and development corporation founded in 2002 on intellectual property licensed from the University of Michigan, it will collaborate in the clinical trials with Borgess Research Institute in Kalamazoo, Wayne State University and Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona. ALGEL has the potential to treat a condition affecting 150,000 individuals worldwide. The complete list of this year's recipients is available on the Technology Tri-Corridor Web site at <http://www.michigan.org/ttc>. The Technology Tri-Corridor's success to date gave Governor Granholm good reason to propose a \$2 billion state bonding initiative for high-tech research and commercialization, the Jobs for Michigan Fund, which is currently under consideration by the state Legislature.

Governor Announces First University Commercialization Award Winners: Dr. Farnam Jahanian of the University of Michigan and Glen Barna of Michigan Tech University were recognized as winners of the first annual Governor's University Awards for Commercialization Excellence (U-ACE). The U-ACE, which grants a \$25,000 prize to each winner, was created to recognize and celebrate the successful commercialization of technology stemming from the research and entrepreneurial efforts of researchers at Michigan's public universities. The awards were given to lead researchers in each of two categories. Category I participants include universities that have annual research expenditures under \$100 million as defined by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System developed by the National Center for Education Statistics. Category II participants are those with average annual research expenditures that exceed \$100 million. Barna, the Category I winner, was a graduate student at Michigan Tech University when his innovative research led to the creation of IR Telemetrics Inc., the worldwide technology leader in wireless data transfer from reciprocating and rotating components. The high-tech firm has \$1 million in annual sales and expects to create 30 jobs over the next five years. Category II designee Jahanian is a professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Michigan. His research led to the creation of Arbor Networks, an innovative software company that protects computer networks against virus attacks and other threats. The company has created 50 jobs in Michigan and anticipates creating another 75 to 100 Michigan jobs over the next five years. Arbor Networks reports \$25 million in annual sales. More than 20 applicants were reviewed by a selection committee of university, government and private industry professionals. Key criteria included the economic impact of the research and its stage of commercialization. The awards are financially underwritten by the MEDC and the University of Michigan.

NextEnergy Completes New HQ, Lab Center in Detroit near Wayne State University: NextEnergy has announced completion of its new headquarters in the TechTown SmartZone near Wayne State University in Detroit. The 45,000-square-foot center has an 18,400-square-foot accelerator laboratory with seven research and development labs, an 80-seat auditorium, state-of-the-art training rooms, demonstration and exhibition areas and office space. It includes a micro-grid of power generators using hydrogen, sunlight and natural gas as fuels. The first two businesses to locate in the NextEnergy labs will be:

- Titan Energy Development, a Minneapolis-based firm that plans to develop and produce a mobile life support system, the Titan Sentry, in Detroit.
- REB Research and Consulting. The Ferndale firm recently won a \$2.3 million grant from the U.S. Defense Dept. to develop lower-cost membranes for use in hydrogen powered fuel cells.

NextEnergy is a non-profit launched with \$30 million in seed money from the State of Michigan. It has secured \$13 million in federal grants and raised another \$2 million from industry.

MEDC Launches Second Round of Tool & Die Recovery Zones: The Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced on June 13 it is accepting applications for the second round of Tool and Die Recovery Zones. The deadline to apply is September 12. The zones allow companies to operate free of virtually all state and local taxes for up to 15 years, thus boosting their efforts to compete in the face of global competition. To qualify, the property designated must be leased or owned by a qualified tool and die business and used primarily for tool and die operations. The company must have fewer than 50 full-time employees and the local government board must agree by resolution to abate the business' local taxes. In addition, the business must enter into a qualified collaborative agreement which designates synergistic opportunities with other qualified tool and die shops.

Promoting Michigan's Tourism & Travel Industry

Pre-Memorial Day Activity at Travel Michigan Web Site Reaches New High: The travel section of the MEDC Web site at <http://www.michigan.org> had its biggest single day ever on May 25th, with 31,986 user sessions for travel information, breaking the previous record set two days earlier with 25,068. Driving that volume was response to Travel Michigan's consumer e-newsletter, advertising campaigns in Chicago, Indianapolis and Cleveland, a consumer promotion with the Michigan Department of Transportation and Amtrak in Chicago and public relations activity both in and out of state in advance of the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Public Television Airs "Great Lakes, Great Times" Promo: The unique appeal of the Great Lakes was captured in a half-hour program airing on Michigan public TV stations May 23. It showcased five of Michigan's most popular tourism areas. With the summer tourist season about to begin, viewers got a close-up look at experiences that are uniquely Michigan: scuba diving in Whitefish Bay, sailing in a Mackinac race, commuting cross lake from Wisconsin to Ludington aboard the S.S. Badger car ferry, and visiting a lighthouse on the Leelanau Peninsula. Maritime driving tours (including Historic Harbortowns, Echoes of the Edmund Fitzgerald, and the Upper Peninsula Maritime Trail) may be viewed by visiting the Travel Michigan Web site at <http://www.michigan.org>, clicking on the "Driving Tours" tab and selecting "Maritime Tours." The Maritime Heritage Tour program is a project of Travel Michigan, in cooperation with the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries, the Michigan Association of Public Broadcasters and the Ludington Area Chamber of Commerce and the Convention and Visitors Bureau.



Topping “Best” Lists in National Publications

Michigan Among Best Locations for Knowledge Based Employers: Ann Arbor and Lansing/East Lansing are ranked among the best areas in the country in the 3rd annual Expansion Management Knowledge Worker Quotient rankings. Both are on the "Five Star" list of metropolitan areas that are exceptionally well placed to attract high-tech companies and entrepreneurs because of their concentration of highly educated workers needed by knowledge-based businesses. The trade publication, aimed at site selection executives, ranks the top 362 metros based on the three criteria of human capital, educational institutions and R&D spending. Ann Arbor is #11 for best-educated work force and #12 among all metro areas in university R&D spending. The Detroit area is the 13th metro for scientists and engineers per capita. To view the study, go to <http://www.expansionmanagement.com>.

Michigan Research Receives National Recognition: Asterand, located in Detroit's TechTown SmartZone next to Wayne State University, has been voted for the 2nd year running by *Scientist* magazine as one of the Top 10 places for scientists to work. The ranking is based on a survey of the publication's 30,000 readers in 21 countries. The privately held company employs 60-plus workers and provides human tissue for genomic and proteomic research. A physics professor at Oakland University in Rochester Hills, Yang Xia, has been awarded \$2.1 million from the National Institutes of Health to help improve the quality and ability of clinical magnetic resonance imaging.

Benton Harbor Tops Michigan Cities on Inc.'s Best Places To Do Business List: Of Michigan population centers, the Benton Harbor area was ranked highest in Inc. magazine's "Best Places for Doing Business in America in 2005" report. The city claimed the 194th slot, ahead of Detroit (213th), Ann Arbor (217th), Grand Rapids (259th) and Kalamazoo (263rd). Benton Harbor's ranking was appreciably higher than the 274th slot it occupied on the 2004 list. Job-growth factors account for about two-thirds of each population center's final score; the balance among industries accounts for the remainder. To view the list, click on <http://www.inc.com/magazine/20050501/bestcities.html>.

Protecting Worker Safety

Herman Miller's GreenHouse Seating Operation Receives State's Highest Safety and Health Award: Herman Miller Inc., GreenHouse Seating Operation received the Michigan Voluntary Protection Program (MVPP) Star Award from the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) for workplace safety and health excellence. MIOSHA established the MVPP program in 1996 to recognize employers actively working toward achieving excellence in workplace safety and health. Since 1999, Michigan has recognized 17 MVPP Star companies. The incidence rates at the Herman Miller GreenHouse are well below the Michigan average for their SIC code 2521, Wooden Office Furniture. The GreenHouse employs 450 workers on two shifts, and manufactures Herman Miller's seating products. The MIOSHA review team conducted 10 formal and 30 informal interviews during the site visit. The team examined each of the required elements of their safety and health management system, and found them to effectively address the scope and complexity of the hazards at the site. Herman Miller helps create great places to work, heal, learn, and live by researching, designing, manufacturing, and distributing innovative interior solutions that support companies, organizations, and individuals all over the world. The company's award-winning products, complemented by furniture-management and strategic consulting services, generated \$1.34 billion in revenue during fiscal 2004.



MIOSHA Director Doug Kalinowski (at right) presented the MVPP Star Award to GreenHouse Operations General Manager Greg Wrona.



Cascade Engineering's Industrial Solutions Container Plant team receives Ergonomics Success Award.

Cascade Engineering's Industrial Solutions Container Plant Receives State's Highest Ergonomics Award: Cascade Engineering's Industrial Solutions Container Plant received the Ergonomic Success Award from MIOSHA. This is the first Ergonomic Success Award issued to an employer since April 2004. The ergonomic improvements at the facility have significantly reduced the number of repetitive motion injuries for its employees—from 10 in 2003 to zero in 2004. MIOSHA's Consultation Education & Training (CET) Division issues the Ergonomic Success Award to employers for instituting ergonomic improvements and substantially reducing traumatic strain and sprain injuries and cumulative trauma disorder illnesses. The criteria for the award are stringent and include an incidence rate below the rate for their Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code, at least a 25 percent reduction of injuries, improvement achieved through engineering controls, and employee input. The Cascade Engineering Industrial Solutions Container Plant produces a variety of plastic carts and containers. The majority weigh 35 pounds; and they produce about 1.2 million annually. Manufacturing these carts is a labor-intensive process that resulted in over exertion and cumulative trauma injuries. The company is a leader in engineered plastic systems and components for the solid waste, automotive and industrial markets. The Cascade Engineering Family of Companies employs more than 1,200 people – approximately 750 in the Grand Rapids area.



James J. Cole, Jr. Chairman, AGC, Greater Detroit, and Executive Vice President, Skanska USA Building; Michael P. Smith, President and CEO, AGC, Greater Detroit; Doug Kalinowski, Director, MIOSHA program; and Connie O'Neill, Director, MIOSHA Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division, signed the alliance at the AGC, Greater Detroit Southfield headquarters.

MIOSHA and the AGC, Greater Detroit Chapter Form Alliance to Protect Construction Workers:

A strategic alliance between the Associated General Contractors (AGC), Greater Detroit Chapter, and the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) was recently signed to protect the safety and health of Michigan's construction workers. The construction industry is one of the most hazardous industries in Michigan. Only about four percent of Michigan's workforce is employed in construction—however, construction fatalities account for more than 40 percent of all fatal workplace accidents. Alliances enable organizations committed to workplace safety and health to collaborate with MIOSHA to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses. Alliances are open to all groups, including: trade or professional associations, businesses, labor organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies. The AGC, Greater Detroit Chapter has been serving Southeast Michigan since 1916. While participation by individual employers is voluntary, MIOSHA anticipates that contractors, who embrace the goals of the partnership and who strive to provide a safe and healthy workplace, will experience a decrease in workplace accidents and illnesses, and a decrease in workers' compensation costs.

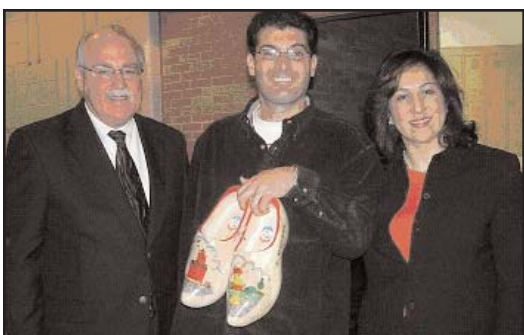
State Bans Contracts to Company Guilty in Employee Death: The Administration of Governor Jennifer M. Granholm will forbid a company found guilty in a 1999 workplace fatality from state government work until 2013. Lanzo Construction Co., LLC, is the first company to be debarred under contract policies strengthened as a result of Granholm's first executive order, 2003-1. The guidelines cite violations of state and federal law, as well as provide a maximum debarment of eight years. "The State of Michigan and its corporate partners are held to high standards to protect our workers, citizens, environment and laws," said Granholm. "Those who

don't play by the rules won't win state business. Our interests and the reputation of our good corporate citizens are too precious to jeopardize by rewarding those who won't share this responsibility." On October 21, 2004, Lanzo was found guilty of violating the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act. The Roseville company was convicted of ignoring state safety standards contributing to the 1999 death of Lanzo employee Robert James Whiteye. The criminal conviction stemmed from the state's case, first brought by then-Attorney General Granholm. In her first Executive Order, Granholm prohibited the state from working with companies violating environmental, consumer protection, and worker safety and health laws. In accordance with the Department of Management and Budget Act and the EO, as well as private and public sector input, vendors now have a clear expectation of performance, and Michigan's interests are better protected. Vendors can now be debarred on the basis of:

- Criminal conviction related to the business conducted with the state;
- Embezzlement, forgery, bribery and other offenses not connected to business with the state;
- Loss or suspension of a license to provide goods or services to state agencies; and
- Conviction of criminal violations of environmental, consumer protection, non-discrimination and worker safety & health laws.

The DMB debarment policy governs all state contractual arrangements and can be viewed at: <http://www.michigan.gov/doingbusiness/0,1607,7-146--78519--00.html>.

Preventing Drunk Driving and Underage Drinking



Michigan Liquor Control Commissioner James Storey, Brandon Silveria, and Chairperson Nida Samona display a gift given to Brandon following his presentation at Holland Christian High School.

Liquor Control Commission Focuses on Youth During Prom and Graduation Season:

Chairperson Nida Samona and Commissioners from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission welcomed Brandon Silveria and The Century Council to encourage Michigan students to "make the right choice" and to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking. During the first week of May 2005, Brandon and representatives from the Liquor Commission and The Century Council, along with industry supporters partnered together to bring a life-saving lesson about the dangers of drunk driving and underage drinking to students at 10 high schools throughout the state. Brandon was involved in an alcohol-related crash at age 17 just before his high school prom. He was in a coma for three months and spent several years in rehabilitation. He was so badly injured that basic motor functions such as walking, talking and even swallowing had to be re-learned. He has permanent brain damage and suffers from intense seizures. Instead of leaving for college, working his part-time job, hanging out with his girlfriend and competing in sports, Brandon now spends his time traveling to high schools and community groups to share his story and emphasize the dangers of underage drinking. His presentations bring tears and standing ovations at almost every place he visits. Brandon hopes that by sharing his experience with other young people he can prevent others from being hurt or killed. The Century Council

(<http://www.centurycouncil.org>) provides funding and materials to educate students across the country about the hazards of underage drinking and driving. They offer videos and curriculum materials for parents, school leaders, and others to use when talking to large or small groups of teens. Chairperson Samona said, "We must all do more to save lives in our area. Last year (2003) 481 people were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes in Michigan, including 81 alcohol-related deaths among those under the age of 21. Even one death is too many. We must do more to keep the teens of Michigan safe and alcohol-free."

Protecting Michigan Consumers

Patients Rights To Appeal Claims Denials Remain Intact OFIS Wins Case To Preserve Patients Rights To Independent Review Act:

After a lengthy court fight, the Michigan Patients Rights to Independent Review Act (PRIRA) was affirmed in June when the Michigan Supreme Court refused to hear a challenge to its constitutionality. The Office of Financial and Insurance Services has been involved in this case against Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, and successfully defended the PRIRA Act on behalf of consumers. PRIRA took effect on October 1, 2000 and sets up a review process for Michigan consumers who have received an adverse determination, such as a denial of a health care claim, from an HMO or other health carrier. Information about the review process is required to be provided to consumers by their HMO or other health carrier. English and OFIS v. BCBSM SC 127150 involved a dentist who had laboratory tests. BCBSM approved some tests and denied others. In February of 2001, a request was filed and accepted by OFIS for external review of the decision to deny coverage, as permitted by PRIRA. After an investigation, it was determined that the tests were all medically necessary and that BCBSM was responsible to pay. This decision was appealed by BCBSM, who contended that OFIS exceeded its authority under the common law in ordering payment for the tests and that BCBSM's due process rights were violated under the state and federal constitutions. The Circuit Court affirmed the commissioner's order, ruling that it was not arbitrary or capricious and that BCBSM's constitutional rights had not been violated in the proceedings. BCBSM then appealed to the Michigan Appeals Court and the court ruled against it. Next, the Michigan Supreme Court denied the appeal, upholding the constitutionality of PRIRA. In 2004, OFIS received 574 requests for review under PRIRA. Of those requests, 155 directly involved HMOs. The remainder involved BCBSM and commercial insurers. In addition to PRIRA cases, OFIS handled 291 other HMO complaints. The PRIRA process can be used for denials from health insurers, HMOs, Alternative Finance and Delivery Systems (AFDS), and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM). Medicare supplement, disability income, hospital indemnity, specified accident, credit, self-funded health plans, or long-term care insurance policies do not qualify for the external review process.

MPSC Releases Report on Status of Telecommunications Competition in Michigan, State Remains a National Leader: The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) released its fifth annual report on the status of telecommunications competition in Michigan. The report, required by the Michigan Telecommunications Act of 2000, primarily examines the state of competition in the toll and local exchange service markets in Michigan. "Michigan continues to be a leader in the nation in offering telecommunications choices to customers," said MPSC Chairman J. Peter Lark. "As telephone competition has grown, customers have benefited greatly." Highlights of the report include:

- The actual number of competitive providers and lines in Michigan has grown over the last six years from a 4 percent share to a 27.5 percent share at the end of 2004, with the total number of lines decreasing.
- Competitive providers' market share is approximately 32.6 percent of SBC lines.
- The number of licensed competitive telecommunications providers in Michigan has grown from 120 in 1999 to 202 in 2004, a slight increase from 2003.
- The total number of phone lines in Michigan has fallen from 6,726,971 in 1999 to 6,103,250 in 2004, reflecting a loss to wireless and Internet telephony.

While the MPSC does not regulate wireless providers, information gathered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) indicates that the number of wireless subscribers in Michigan increased 11 percent from 2003 through June 2004 to 5,430,637. The FCC's report notes that Michigan has 13 wireless carriers with over 10,000 subscribers each. The entire report is available on the MPSC Web site at: <http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc>.



OFIS Commissioner Linda Watters and CSBS Chairman John Allison sign a Bank Secrecy Act agreement.

Michigan OFIS Improves Bank Secrecy Act Enforcement Through

State-Federal Information Sharing:: Linda A. Watters, Commissioner of the Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS) signed a document on June 8 outlining protocols for sharing information with federal regulatory agencies in order to streamline enforcement of the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA). The BSA is a federal law aimed at stopping money laundering that supports terrorist financing, drug smuggling and other criminal acts. The agreement highlights the recognition by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) of the vital role that Michigan plays in preventing money laundering and terrorist financing through depository institutions. Watters stated, "This protocol enhances two-way information sharing between my agency and federal entities to ensure that the financial companies we supervise are fulfilling the anti-money laundering requirements of the Bank Secrecy Act. The agreement provides a mechanism for increased communication and coordination among state and federal financial institution regulators regarding compliance with-and enforcement of-the Bank Secrecy Act."

The Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS), the Money Transmitter Regulators Association (MTRA) and the National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors (NASCUS) have been working diligently over the past several months with FinCEN and the IRS to produce model memoranda of understanding to improve coordination by leveraging intelligence. The memoranda are supplemented by letter agreements between FinCEN and federal bank and credit union regulators that streamline approvals for disclosure of jointly-held information to FinCEN. CSBS Chairman John Allison commented that CSBS's goal is to obtain signatures from all 50 states to cement and begin this working relationship with FinCEN.

Promoting Energy-Efficiency



Henry Green

DLEG's Bureau of Construction Codes & Fire Safety Director Speaks at Energy Code Conference: DLEG's Bureau of Construction Codes & Fire Safety Director Henry Green, who also serves as International Code Council (ICC) vice president, was the keynote speaker at the District of Columbia's 2005 Energy Code Conference. Green noted that ICC, through its Industry Advisory Council, has created a Green Building Task Group (TAG) to provide a forum for IAC members to discuss the emerging green building movement and its relationship to ICC for the purpose of implementing the following policies:

- Serve as a resource for ICC in the development and implementation of green building codes.
- Provide IAC members with an understanding of current events pertaining to green building so they are informed of market trends.
- Identify opportunities with the building code system to minimize barriers to the use of green building concepts.
- Identify the impact on building codes and the associated regulatory system.

Green also discussed the importance of building safety and improving energy efficiency, and emphasized the importance of green building construction as a way to combat the increasing costs of energy. The audience included employees from Washington D.C.'s Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and the District's construction industry. Green congratulated the Department on adopting the 2003 International Codes, and offered ICC as a resource for assistance. He also officially invited the Department to join the ICC Major Jurisdictions Committee.

NextEnergy, Inc. Receives a \$43,000 grant from DLEG's Energy Office: NextEnergy, Inc. (<http://www.nextenergy.org>) received a \$43,000 grant awarded by DLEG's Energy Office to serve as the coordinating agency for the Detroit Area Clean Cities Coalition. Initially the Coalition focused on alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas, electricity, propane, ethanol and biodiesel. The program now also offers additional information and assistance to area fleets interested in adopting technologies such as hybrid electric gasoline and diesel vehicles and idle reduction equipment for heavy-duty trucks and buses. For additional information, contact Rachel Kuntzsch at 313-833-0100 ext. 180 or detroitcleancities@nextenergy.org. NextEnergy has its new headquarters and laboratory center in Detroit, alongside a micro-grid of power generators using hydrogen, sunlight and natural gas as fuels. In addition to lab space, the NextEnergy Center, a 45,000 sq.ft. building on Burroughs St. will include offices, a showroom area, an 80-seat auditorium and three training rooms. The micro-grid contains four Plug Power fuel cells, two STM Power Stirling engines, a Ford internal combustion engine that runs off hydrogen, two GM internal combustion engines that burn natural gas, and two Uni-Solar PV cells. A hydrogen fueling station will also be built.

\$6 Million in Low-Income and Energy Efficiency Fund Grants Approved: The Michigan Public Service Commission approved \$6 million in low-income and energy efficiency fund grants on Jun 30. This round of grants is devoted to promoting energy efficiency among all customer classes in Michigan.

- **Automation Alley Technology Center** - \$550,000 to install two building integrated solar power electric systems, an integrated energy management system, and a battery back-up system in Michigan.
- **Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker School District** - \$265,000 for the installation and grid tying of two wind turbines and a solar panel on the property of the Laker School District located in the upper thumb area of Michigan.
- **Grand Valley State University** - \$1 million to build a pilot plant that converts animal biomass into methane gas. It will be used to generate electricity.
- **Michigan Department of Environmental Quality/Next Energy** - \$185,000 for the development of analysis to identify appropriate sources and quantities of energy efficiency and renewable energy feedstocks/technologies available and to optimize net economic benefits to Michigan's economy.
- **Michigan State University/Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering** - \$2 million to construct an anaerobic digester, including an anaerobic membrane bioreactor, an evaporator, reverse osmosis equipment, an expanded facility for struvite production, a constructed wetland, and provisions for visitors.
- **NextEnergy Center** - \$150,000 toward the development of an interactive fleet user's Web site in Michigan that will assist in determining and evaluating fuel economy improvements, emission reductions for various types of powertrain technologies, and alternative fuel vehicles.
- **Northwestern Michigan College (Michigan Technical Education Center)** - \$450,000 for the "Northern Michigan Energy Demonstration Center-Renewable Energy Training Laboratory"; that will focus on the training of students for residential energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.
- **Ovonic Fuel Cell Company LLC** - \$400,000 for the development of a prototype "Ovonic Regenerative Fuel Cell"; to be used by customers that require reliable backup power through an uninterruptible power supply system.
- **Traverse City Light & Power** - \$400,000 to demonstrate how an integrated renewable energy district heating and wind power plan can be developed, implemented, and administered on a community scale in a cost effective manner, providing economic and environmental benefits.
- **U.P. Steel** - \$530,000 to assist in development of a pilot mill using a new microwave/electric arc furnace steelmaking technology.
- **West Michigan BioDiesel LLC** - \$70,000 for the purchase of items to assist with safe and efficient production using recycled vegetable oil for feedstock at its plant.

DLEG Energy Office Awards Biodiesel Incentive Grants: Cheboygan County Road Commission and the Bay Area Transit Authority in Traverse City have been awarded biodiesel incentive grants from the State Energy Office. The grants will enable both buses and heavy-duty trucks to use biodiesel, a renewable fuel made from soy or canola oil. The Cheboygan County Road Commission was awarded \$18,750, and the Bay Area Transit Authority, \$11,250. Both organizations sought the biodiesel incentive funds to be able to use a renewable fuel that reduces the impact of transportation on the environment. Biodiesel is a cleaner-burning fuel that can be made from domestic renewable resources, such as vegetable oil. Biodiesel can be used in any diesel engine with few or no modifications. The fuel can be burned in its pure form (B100), or blended with petroleum diesel at any level. Many fleets have successfully moved to B20 (a mix of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent diesel), which is accepted by most engine manufacturers. Biofuel incentive grants help pay the declining difference in price between standard fuels and bio-based fuels, enabling fleets to try new products and demonstrate their qualities to other fleets. The biodiesel incentive funds were made available through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (<http://www.energy.gov>). The grant is administered by DLEG's Energy Office through the Michigan Biomass Energy Program (<http://www.michigan.gov/biomass>).

Assisting Employers & Workers

Workers Compensation Seminar Series Set for August: The Workers' Compensation Agency and the State Bar of Michigan, Workers' Compensation Section, are co-sponsoring a seminar series in August about Michigan's workers' compensation program. The seminar is free and open to newcomers and experienced practitioners. It is entitled "Michigan Workers' Compensation Trial and Practice Seminar" and features four different sessions conducted on consecutive Wednesdays, starting on August 3. The two-hour sessions will be teleconferenced to sites in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing and Saginaw. Each session starts at 5:00 p.m. Session topics are: Michigan Workers' Compensation Act and Case Decisions (8/3); Workers' Compensation Trial Practice (8/10); Medical of Workers' Compensation (8/17); and Rapid Fire Seminar and Panel of Experts (8/24). A number of well-known workers' compensation attorneys in Michigan will be participating in the sessions. There is no cost to attend the seminar, but seating is limited and reservations are required by July 25, 2005. Interested parties can register by calling Hilda at 248-357-7013.

DLEG Awards \$4.2 Million for the Michigan Works! Service Centers to Better Serve Job Seekers and Employers: Funding totalling \$4.2 million was awarded to 25 Michigan Works! Agencies around the state to improve customer service and upgrade facilities for job seekers and employers at the Michigan Works! Service Centers. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Statewide Activities funding will help ensure that employers and workers throughout the state receive the services they need in order to find jobs and remain competitive in today's global economy. The Michigan Works! Service Centers feature all the services employers and job seekers need under one roof. Current services include:

For Employers (in any industry):

- Post job openings and search for employees online
- Network with employment service specialists, veterans and rehabilitation services reps
- Use our interview and conference rooms
- Designate our facility as drop-off/pick-up point for applications
- Gather the latest labor market information
- Learn if you qualify for tax-credits or wage reimbursement
- Find out about job training for high-demand careers
- Participate in our "Employer of the Day" program

For Job Seekers (professionals, skilled workers, unemployed, underemployed, disabled, veterans, and youth)

- Search for jobs online
- Get help with resumes, job interview preparation, job leads, and referrals
- Network with career counselors, veterans and rehabilitation services reps (unemployment agency reps at select sites as well)
- Learn about earning more through education and job training
- Mingle with potential employers on site

Michigan Employment Relations Commission Holds Historic Meeting in Upper Peninsula: The Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) held a meeting for the first time in its 66-year history in the Upper Peninsula on June 25th. "This is an historic moment for the Michigan Employment Relations Commission and Upper Peninsula residents with two major firsts. Not only was this the first Upper Peninsula meeting, but the Commission also has its first U.P. representative with Escanaba resident Nino Green appointed by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm," said DLEG Director David C. Hollister. "These two firsts indicate that Gov. Granholm is working hard for Upper Peninsula businesses and citizens to get their fair representation and have a voice in state government." Commissioner Nino E. Green, of Escanaba, was appointed by Gov. Granholm in July 2004 to a three-year term as one of three members of the Michigan Employment Relations Commission, which includes Chairman Nora Lynch and Commissioner Harry Bishop. Green is president and shareholder of Green, Weisse, Rettig, Rademacher, Clark & Bray P.C. law firm in Escanaba. The Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) resolves labor disputes involving public and private sector employees by appointing mediators, arbitrators and fact finders, conducting union representation elections, determining appropriate bargaining units, and adjudicating unfair labor practice cases.

Berrien-Cass-Van Buren Michigan Works! Agency Awarded Grant to Assist Low-Income Residents into Jobs: An additional \$50,000 in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding was awarded to the Michigan Works! Agency serving Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties. The grant will be used to provide employment-related services such as automobile purchases and transportation allowances for individuals participating in the Work First program. The goal of Work First is to assist Michigan's low-

income citizens in obtaining jobs, or higher-paying jobs, thereby reducing or eliminating the need for public assistance.



Gov. Granholm signs anti-SUTA dumping legislation. Looking on are (l-r): Dave Plawecki, DLEG deputy director; Joe Mulligan, UIA SUTA analyst; Robin Norton, analyst, DLEG Policy & Legislative Affairs; Neil Zechman, chief, UIA Administrative Law and Rules Section; Rodger Palm, acting director, UIA Office of Trust Fund, Tax & Employer Compliance; and Sharon Bommarito, UIA director.

Governor Signs SUTA Dumping Legislation: Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed into law amendments to the state's unemployment insurance (UI) law that will help combat the problem of "SUTA (state unemployment tax act) dumping" in Michigan. The recently approved federal "SUTA Dumping Prevention Act of 2004" required Michigan and all other states to comply with the federal law and amend their state UI laws to ban SUTA dumping. Basically, the amendments to Michigan's bar businesses from transferring employees to an affiliate or newly purchased business if that transfer was for the sole or primary purpose of reducing the employer's UI tax rate. The bills are an important first step, and the Governor has "directed DLEG to use aggressively all available legal and administrative tools at its disposal to stop SUTA dumping." But more needs to be done and she has urged the legislature "...to pursue additional legislative action to cut off all SUTA dumping loopholes used to take advantage of our unemployment system."

UI Tax Collections Up; Reserves Down: According to UI tax data compiled by the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA), the agency collected \$1.309 billion in unemployment taxes from employers in 2004. Cash reserves in the UI trust fund totaled \$628 million by year's end, compared to \$1.064 billion in December 2003. Monies in the trust fund are used to make unemployment benefit payments. The number of active employers subject to the state's UI tax in 2004 climbed to 213,104, a gain of about 2,300. The average tax rate also increased, climbing to an estimated 3.4 percent, compared to 3.2 percent in 2003. Half of Michigan's employers have a UI tax rate of 2.0 percent or less. Work on integrity issues, such as SUTA dumping, will likely make the difference in whether the trust fund remains solvent before it starts to rebuild its reserves, which is projected to begin in 2008.

Governor appoints two to the Appellate Commission: Gov. Granholm recently announced two appointments to the Workers' Compensation Appellate Commission (WCAC). She named Gregory A. Przybylo and Granner S. Ries to the Commission. Przybylo is an attorney in private practice and was appointed to a term expiring September 30, 2005. He succeeds Richard Leslie who resigned earlier this year. Ries is also an attorney in private practice and will fill a term expiring on September 30, 2005. He replaces William G. Reamon, Jr. who resigned in April. The appointments stand confirmed unless disapproved by the Senate within 60 days. The WCAC reviews opinions and orders of worker's compensation magistrates and promulgates rules to amend its administrative appellate procedures. It also has the authority to review orders of the Workers Compensation Agency director.



**Granner
Ries**



**Gregory
Przybylo**

DLEG Announces Employment Services Grants to Michigan Works! Service Centers: Twenty-five Michigan Works! Agencies received \$15,962,500 in federal Wagner-Peyser Act grants. The funding will impact the Workforce Investment, Employment Service, Veterans, and Reemployment Services Initiative programs for program years 2005 and 2006. The grants will enable Michigan Works! Agencies to facilitate matches between employers and qualified job seekers and to provide reemployment services to individuals eligible for unemployment compensation. "These funds will assure we are continuing to provide employment services to Michigan's citizens so that they can get back to work," said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. Wagner-Peyser funds are made available through the United States Department of Labor-Employment and Training Administration and are administered by the Department of Labor & Economic Growth

DLEG Directs Reemployment Services Grants to Michigan Works! Service Centers: Twenty-Five Michigan Works! Agencies received \$1,386,300 in federal Reemployment Services Initiative (RSI) funding for program year 2005. RSI provides early intervention and customized reemployment services to unemployed insurance claimants who have nearly exhausted their benefits. Specific services to help them reduce the time it takes to find employment are job development, job search planning, job search workshops, career guidance, employment testing, and resume writing assistance. "When workers are re-employed, it benefits the individual workers, their families and Michigan's economy," said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. Federal grants to Michigan Works! Agencies are made available through the U.S. Department of Labor-Employment and Training Administration and administered through the Department of Labor & Economic Growth.

Grants to Help Low-Income Youth Find Jobs: Grants totalling \$300,000 in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding were awarded to 12 Michigan Works! Agencies to help low-income youth find jobs. WIA Youth Programs offer services such as tutoring, study skills training, alternative secondary school programs, summer employment opportunities, paid and unpaid work experiences, occupational skill training, leadership development opportunities, supportive services, and follow-up services. "Two of the most important features of WIA Youth Programs are adult mentoring and guidance and counseling," said Gov. Jennifer Granholm. "The presence of a stable, caring adult in a young person's life can make all the difference." Michigan Works! Agencies receiving the funding were selected based on the high percentage of low-income youth in their service areas.

Assisting Michiganians with Disabilities



Youth Leadership Forum Helps High School Students with Disabilities Find Their Potential:

The sixth annual Michigan Youth Leadership Forum for high school students with disabilities was held June 12-16 at Michigan State University. Thirty-four students from across the state participated in the five-day leadership development program, which also cultivates citizenship and social skills. "We were pleased to offer the forum again this year because it has proven itself to be a self-actualization experience for students," DLEG Director David C. Hollister said. "The participants begin to realize their potential, and many of them become leaders in their communities and at the state level as well." The forum is based on mentor relationships and developing leadership by example. Successful adults with disabilities serve as mentors in their roles as program presenters and small group leaders. The week's activities

included a day at the State Capitol debating a selected bill with several members of the Legislature, learning about disability rights laws and innovations in technology, and participating in mock employment interviews. The major corporate sponsors of this year's forum are General Motors and Dow Chemical, both of which donated \$20,000. Other supporters include individuals, nonprofit organizations, state government agencies, and businesses that have contributed a total of \$15,000. The student participants, representing a wide range of disability characteristics and ethnic affiliations, have been selected through a competitive application process and will attend at no cost to their families.

State's Disability Advocacy Agency Moves to New Location in Lansing: The Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns (MCDC) and its Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing have moved to 201 North Washington Square, Suite 150, in downtown Lansing. "This relocation to a first floor suite in the Victor Building provides persons with disabilities easy access to the Commission's services," DLEG Director David C. Hollister said. "Because the Michigan Commission for the Blind and Michigan Rehabilitation Services are also housed in the Victor Building, the three disability-related agencies now have greater opportunities to collaborate in planning for and providing disability-related services." MCDC promotes greater understanding of the abilities of people with disabilities and responds to issues that affect Michigan's 1.9 million citizens with disabilities. Among the agency's services are information and technical assistance; training in disability rights, awareness, and sensitivity; helping legislators respond to constituent inquiries relating to disability issues; helping employers understand their responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the benefits of hiring workers with disabilities; and sponsoring the Youth Leadership Forum each summer, when high school students with disabilities from throughout the state visit the Capitol to learn to become future leaders. The Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing concentrates on improving the lives of the nearly one million Michiganians who are deaf or hard of hearing through information and referral, accommodations, and interpreter information and support. MCDC can be reached toll free at (877) 499-6232 (voice/TTY); in the Lansing area at (517) 335-6004 (voice/TTY); by videophone at <http://www.dodhh.net>; or through e-mail at mcdc@michigan.gov and dodhh@michigan.gov. The agency's website address is <http://www.mcdc-dodhh.org>.

Blind and Visually Impaired Youth Invited to Summer Camp near Greenville July 17-22: Young people ages 14-18 who are blind or have visual disabilities are invited to participate in the second annual "Quest for Success" summer camp at Camp Tuhsmeheeta near Greenville July 17-22, 2005. The Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) and Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind (OUB) are sponsoring the week-long summer camp, which provides opportunities for blind and visually impaired youth to enhance their independent living skills, explore career options, and socialize with their peers. Campers will learn to cook simple foods using adaptive devices and techniques, and they'll also enjoy traditional summer camp activities such as water sports, campfires, hikes, crafts, team and individual games, and a dance. All Quest for Success classes will be taught by professional MCB staff. Recreational activities will be led by Camp Tuhsmeheeta staff, who are experienced in working with individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Many of the classroom teachers and camp counselors themselves are blind or visually impaired. For more information, current clients of the Michigan Commission for the Blind should contact their MCB counselor. All others should call Sherry Gordon of MCB at 269-337-3276. Since the 1970s, Camp Tuhsmeheeta has been operated specifically as a camp for young people who are blind or visually impaired. Owned by the Michigan Department of Education, the camp is operated by Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind, a non-profit organization formed in 1994 to provide outdoor education and recreation for blind and visually impaired children. The camp's operating costs are funded with private donations. The Michigan Commission for the Blind provides opportunities for individuals who are blind to achieve independence and/or employment. The commission's five-member policy board, appointed by the governor, oversees programs throughout Michigan that annually serve an average of more than 4,500 state residents who are blind or have vision impairments. Visit <http://www.michigan.gov/mcb> or call MCB at 1-800-292-4200 (voice) or 1-888-864-1212 (TTY).

Assisting Michiganians with Disabilities with Job Placement: Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) assisted 1,112 Michiganians with disabilities into jobs during June. In the same month, MRS assisted 374 Michigan employers with disability-related issues, such as consultation on job site accommodations and retention of at-risk workers

Employer Appreciation Breakfast Held in Saginaw: The Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) office in Saginaw recognized 13 local employers on June 2 with an Appreciation Breakfast at a local restaurant. MRS staff members thanked the employers for their continued support in the hiring and training of persons with disabilities. Framed award certificates were presented to McBrite Manor, Selective Case Management, The Home Depot, The Junction Restaurant, Restoration Community Outreach Services, Goodwill Industries, Family Dollar Store, T J Maxx, Custom Foods, Romanow Building Services, Value City, International Quality Control, and The Lamplighter Flower Shop. Leonard Meisel, Saginaw MRS site manager, served as master of ceremonies. Planning committee members were Marcy Shappee, Melissa Jackson, Pat Bray, and Linda Hartgrove. Saginaw MRS looks forward to hosting this event annually.

Conference at Hannahville Reservation Aims to Enhance State Workers' Cultural Knowledge: Rehabilitation counselors in the Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) who assist people into jobs learned how to better serve Native Americans with disabilities at the Hannahville Indian Reservation, Escanaba. The conference, called "Walking in Two Worlds: Reaching Out to Serve American Indians with Disabilities," brought together Native Americans from three Michigan tribes and counselors from DLEG's Michigan Rehabilitation Services and Michigan Commission for the Blind as well as veterans' employment specialists from DLEG's Bureau of Workforce Programs. Tribes represented at the conference were the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and Hannahville (Potawatomi) Tribe. MRS provided job-related services to 827 Native Americans with disabilities last year. The one-and-a-half day conference agenda included a panel discussion on building common ground; a presentation on fetal alcohol syndrome by Candace Shelton, Center for Excellence, Tucson, Arizona; and performances by the Hannahville Drum Group and Hannahville Boys and Girls Dance Group. The highlight was the unveiling of a new Native American outreach poster commissioned by MRS, which features the artwork of Will Espey of Boyne City. Espey, of the Wolf Clan Mowhawk of the Six Nations Iroquois, was at the conference to discuss his artwork and its meaning.

Developing a 21st Century Workforce

Report Reveals Capital Area's Health Care Potential: The Capital Area Michigan Works! newest Labor Market Information report released at a May luncheon highlights the importance of addressing workforce shortages and increasing the industry's already substantial economic impact. According to the new report, "Health Care: The Jobs Machine," the capital area is uniquely poised to become a health care center of excellence. Ingham Regional Medical Center; Sparrow Health System; Ingham County Medical Society; Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine and Lansing Community College's Human, Health and Public Service Careers Division came together with Capital Area Michigan Works! to create "Health Care: The Jobs Machine." At the May luncheon, a panel of experts highlighted the report's findings, including Bruce Weaver and Mark Reffitt of DLEG's Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives and Heather Fraizer of Public Policy Associates. Some of the report's key findings were:

- The economic "output" for the health care industry in Michigan grew from \$3.5 billion in 1977 to almost \$24 billion by 2002 and now represents approximately 7 percent of all goods and services produced in Michigan each year.
- The economic impact of every health care employee in the capital area is approximately \$55,000 per year, and the total economic impact is estimated at \$1.4 billion annually.
- 8 of every 100 jobs in Michigan are directly provided by health care organizations and 12 out of every 100 jobs are directly or indirectly related to health care.
- By the end of 2004, the health care sector employed 22,000, or 7.5 percent, of all workers in the capital area.
- Approximately 1,000 capital area residents are directly involved in educating the next generation of physicians, nurses, health care technicians and direct-care workers.
- Since 1977, health care employment in the capital area more than doubled while manufacturing employment dropped by 40 percent.
- Local health care jobs will grow nearly twice as fast as total industry employment growth throughout this decade - more than 17 percent growth for health care alone versus 10 percent growth for all industry employment.
- By 2012, the capital area will need nearly 4,000 new and replacement health care workers.

The luncheon also featured a keynote address by Bill Sepic, president of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, who discussed the wake-up call the region received when Michigan State University began investigating a move of the medical schools to Grand Rapids. Dennis Swan, president and CEO of Sparrow Health System, and Dennis Litos, president and CEO of Ingham Regional Medical Center, came together to stress the importance of growing the region into a center of excellence. Litos presented the audience of 150 guests with a mock Lansing State Journal article from the year 2010 that predicted growth in health care jobs would exceed projections; mid-Michigan hospitals would grow into Regional Centers of Excellence in cancer care, cardiovascular care, neurosurgical care and orthopedic care; and health care workforce vacancies would be at the lowest levels in more than a decade. Litos envisioned that only through partnerships could all of the region's goals be met. A full version of "Health Care: The Jobs Machine" is at <http://www.camw.org> under the "Documents" section.

125 Students Graduate from Michigan Career & Technical Institute: Congressman John "Joe" Schwarz (R - 7th District) was the honored guest and speaker at the Michigan Career and Technical Institute's (MCTI) graduation ceremony on Saturday, July 9. The physician and former state legislator spoke on the topic of jobs creation to the 125 graduating students, their families, and MCTI staff at the school's Barry County campus, 20 miles northeast of Kalamazoo. Operated by the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, MCTI provides vocational training in 13 different career areas for adults with disabilities. Training programs include auto mechanics, business support services, cabinetmaking, certified nursing assistant, culinary arts, custodial, drafting, electronics, grounds maintenance/landscaping, machine technology, printing, and retail marketing.

\$105 Million in Employment and Training Grants Awarded to Michigan Works: More than \$100 million in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grants were awarded to the 25 Michigan Works! Agencies to enhance employment and training opportunities for Michigan workers. Three programs are being funded: the WIA Adult Program at \$32,261,697; the WIA Dislocated Worker Program at \$37,549,481; and the WIA Youth Program at \$35,392,044. The WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs help increase the employment, job retention and earnings of participants through activities such as skill upgrading, on-the-job training, and job placement assistance. "These programs update the occupational skills of the participants, which improves the quality of the workforce, reduces welfare dependency, and enhances the overall productivity and competitiveness of our economy," said Gov. Jennifer Granholm. The WIA Youth Program promotes youth leadership development and citizenship through voluntary community services opportunities, adult mentoring and follow-up, and targeted opportunities for youth living in high poverty areas.

Creating Cool: The Economy of Arts and Culture

Cool Cities Designation Creates Positive Buzz with Designees Reporting First Year Successes: Results from the first year participants in the Cool Cities Neighborhood Award program say the designation helped create 400 new jobs and retain 500 existing jobs. The year-old program enabled 19 projects to have priority access to more than \$100 million in existing grants, loans and other resources. "The benefits reported by the communities greatly exceeded our expectations for a program in its first year of action," Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm said. "The Cool Cities designation has been a powerful catalyst for neighborhood revitalization while attracting and retaining jobs for today and tomorrow." The Cool Cities initiative, among other things, seeks to foster the development of vibrant, attractive cities and urban centers and is part of the governor's plan to grow Michigan's economy. The 19 Cool Cities pilot projects received catalyst grants in 2004 of up to \$100,000 and have access to more than \$100 million in state grants, loans, and other resources. The first-year participants are in Alpena, Bay City, Detroit, Ferndale, Flint, Grand Rapids, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Marquette, Port Huron, Portland, Saginaw, Saugatuck, Sault Ste. Marie, Warren, and Ypsilanti. "Local businesses in Cool Cities communities saw significant growth in 2004 as 68 new businesses opened their doors for the first time and five expanded their enterprises to encompass increased progress," DLEG Director David C. Hollister said, "This type of continued economic growth is vital in order to build vibrant, energetic communities that retain jobs and attract new jobs."

The recipients also reported these positive results:

- The attention the Cool Cities program drew to the 19 local communities spurred significant monetary investment from various entities. In total, over \$350 million was contributed by local (\$63 million), state (\$109 million), and private (\$174 million) organizations.
- 100 percent of the projects reported the Cool Cities award designation caused other community groups to get involved with revitalization.

A formal evaluation of Michigan's overall Cool Cities Initiative is expected in early 2006. The Department of Labor & Economic Growth, which coordinates this program, is currently working with the interdepartmental Cool Cities Coordinating Team to finalize the 2005 grant recipients. More information on Michigan's Cool Cities Initiative is available at <http://www.coolcities.com>.

Department of History, Arts and Libraries Names Betty Boone as Director of Cultural Economic

Development: Betty Boone, former Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) executive director, has taken on a newly-created position in the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL): director of cultural economic development. "We have been working hard to reposition the resources of our department to increase our impact on community and economic development. Our department and our sector have a major role in cultural economic development which means using creative and cultural assets to cause economic growth and community prosperity," said HAL Director Dr. William Anderson. "By creating this new position, we want to send the message that not only should such resources be employed as an economic tool - they must be employed. Having Betty in this role will strengthen our already close partnerships with the Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Travel Michigan, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and other organizations inside and outside of state government." In her new position, Boone will focus her efforts on building partnerships among local, state, regional and national cultural organizations and serving as coordinator for the department's cultural economic development activities. Boone will report directly to Dr. Anderson and will provide administrative oversight for MCACA staff. Carol Culham, deputy director for the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs since 1996, assumes Boone's responsibilities as director for the council.



2005 Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation Honor Projects Helping to Revitalize Michigan Communities: Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) Director Dr. William Anderson recently presented the 2005 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation to recipients in a ceremony in the State Capitol rotunda. "Historic structures across Michigan play an important role in making our communities vibrant, interesting places to live and work," said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. "This year's winners have demonstrated



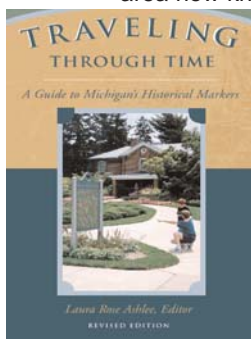
Niles "Before"

ed commitment, collaboration, cooperation and the highest degree of excellence in preserving these important parts of Michigan history." Created in 2003, the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation recognizes individuals, developers, corporations, academic institutions and units of government that have undertaken rehabilitation of historic resources or archaeological excavations, or implemented sound public policy to promote preservation. Through these awards the governor seeks to draw attention to historic resources' unique potential for economic development as well as to the important role these resources play in defining our communities. The 2005 award recipients are:



Niles "After"

- In Benton Harbor and Battle Creek - Finlay Development, L.L.C. for the rehabilitation of Benton Harbor's Fidelity Building and Battle Creek's Youth Building;
- In Niles - The City of Niles Planning Department, the Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance, the Niles Downtown Development Authority and the Greater Niles Community Development Corporation for the removal of metal covering from historic buildings on Main Street;
- In Grand Rapids - David and Barbara Huyser for multiple rehabilitations in the Fairmount Square Historic District;
- In Saginaw - Samuel and Peter Shaheen for the Temple Theatre-Elf Khurafteh Complex rehabilitation project;
- In Chippewa County - the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society for the DeTour Reef Lighthouse stabilization and restoration; and
- In Detroit - Schostak Brothers and Company and the Sterling Group for multiple rehabilitations on Woodward Avenue in an area now known as Merchants Row.



New Travelers' Guide to Michigan Historic Sites Hits Bookshelves: The Department of History, Arts and Libraries recently announced the publication of "Traveling Through Time: A Guide to Michigan's Historical Markers," a new guidebook listing the official state historical markers in Michigan. "Traveling Through Time" is the definitive illustrated guide to nearly 1,500 Michigan historic sites. Aided by this book, travelers can journey through the state, discovering the many historical sites in Michigan's neighborhoods, along its highways, and in city centers. "Michigan's rich and diverse history makes it an ideal place for people of all interests to visit and explore," said Governor Jennifer Granholm. "I encourage every family traveling in Michigan this summer to pick up a copy of 'Traveling Through Time' and stop by some of the many historical markers across the state." Michigan has designated close to 1,500 historical markers throughout the Upper and Lower peninsulas since 1955. In this revised edition of "Traveling Through Time," the program's coordinator, Laura Rose Ashlee, has collected the histories that appear on these markers together into one convenient guidebook. The book, published by the University of Michigan Press, is available at booksellers, on the Web, or by calling (517) 373-1663. Proceeds from the sale of "Traveling Through Time" support the programs of the State Historic Preservation Office, which administers the Michigan Historical Marker Program. For more information about the book or the state's historical marker program, call (517) 335-2725 or visit <http://www.michigan.gov/shpo>.

Serving Spanish Speaking Citizens

MPSC Makes Four Consumer Alerts Available in Spanish: The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) announced that four of its consumer alerts are now available in Spanish. "It is the MPSC's responsibility to make sure Michigan residents are aware of programs designed to assist customers in dealing with their utilities, so we are pleased to provide Spanish-speaking utility customers with helpful information," said MPSC Chairman J. Peter Lark. The four consumer alerts translated into Spanish are:

- Existe Ayuda Disponible con Algunos Problemas del Servicio Publico Llamando al Numero Gratuito de "Michigan Public Service Commission" (Help In Dealing With Some Utility Problems is Available by Calling the MPSC's Toll-Free Number)
- El Programa de Ayuda Telefonica "Lifeline" Puede Proporcionar Ahorros (The Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program Can Provide Savings)
- ¡Reglamentos contra el cambio de compañía telefónica sin autorización (slamming) protegen a los consumidores! (Anti-Slamming Rules Protect Consumers!)
- Califica para el "Home Heating Credit" del 2004 (Are You Eligible for the 2004 Home Heating Credit?)

The Spanish consumer alerts are available on the MPSC's Web site: <http://michigan.gov/mpsc>, or by calling the Commission's toll-free phone number: 1-800-292-9555. The Commission's Web site also contains a link to the Federal Communications Commission's Spanish Web pages. In a continuing effort to reach all Michigan residents with helpful information, the Commission has plans to translate other consumer alerts in the coming months.